

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

Plaintiff, ) **COMPLAINT FOR VIOLATIONS**  
 ) **OF:**

ORIGIN TAX & FINANCIAL  
SERVICES, P.C., and DOES 1 through  
10, inclusive, and each of them,  
Defendant.

1. NEGLIGENT VIOLATIONS OF THE TELEPHONE CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT [47 U.S.C. §227(b)]
2. WILLFUL VIOLATIONS OF THE TELEPHONE CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT [47 U.S.C. §227(b)]

## DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

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## **NATURE OF THE CASE**

1. Plaintiff brings this action individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated seeking damages and any other available legal or equitable remedies resulting from the illegal actions of ORIGIN TAX & FINANCIAL SERVICES, P.C. (“Defendant”), in negligently, knowingly, and/or willfully contacting Plaintiff on Plaintiff’s cellular telephone in violation of the Telephone Consumer Protection Act, 47 *U.S.C.* § 227 *et seq.* (“TCPA”) and related regulations, thereby invading Plaintiff’s privacy and causing her to incur unnecessary and unwanted expenses.

## **JURISDICTION & VENUE**

2. Jurisdiction is proper under 28 *U.S.C.* § 1332(d)(2) because Plaintiff, a resident of California, seeks relief on behalf of a Class, which will result in at least one class member belonging to a different state than that of Defendant, a California corporation. Plaintiff also seeks up to \$1,500.00 in damages for each call in violation of the TCPA, which, when aggregated among a proposed class in the thousands, exceeds the \$5,000,000.00 threshold for federal court jurisdiction. Therefore, both diversity jurisdiction and the damages threshold under the Class Action Fairness Act of 2005 (“CAFA”) are present, and this Court has jurisdiction.

3. Venue is proper in the United States District Court for the Central District of California pursuant to 28 *U.S.C.* § 1391(b)(2) because Defendant does business within the State of California and Plaintiff resides within the County of Los Angeles.

## **PARTIES**

4. Plaintiff, VICTORIA SHOW-GAI (“Plaintiff”), is a natural person residing in Hawthorne, California and is a “person” as defined by 47 *U.S.C.* § 153 (39).

5. Defendant, ORIGIN TAX & FINANCIAL SERVICES, P.C. (“Defendant”), is a public accounting firm, and is a “person” as defined by 47

1 *U.S.C. § 153 (39).*

2 6. The above named Defendant, and its subsidiaries and agents, are  
3 collectively referred to as “Defendants.” The true names and capacities of the  
4 Defendants sued herein as DOE DEFENDANTS 1 through 10, inclusive, are  
5 currently unknown to Plaintiff, who therefore sues such Defendants by fictitious  
6 names. Each of the Defendants designated herein as a DOE is legally responsible  
7 for the unlawful acts alleged herein. Plaintiff will seek leave of Court to amend the  
8 Complaint to reflect the true names and capacities of the DOE Defendants when  
9 such identities become known.

10 7. Plaintiff is informed and believes that at all relevant times, each and  
11 every Defendant was acting as an agent and/or employee of each of the other  
12 Defendants and was acting within the course and scope of said agency and/or  
13 employment with the full knowledge and consent of each of the other Defendants.  
14 Plaintiff is informed and believes that each of the acts and/or omissions complained  
15 of herein was made known to, and ratified by, each of the other Defendants.

16 **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

17 8. Beginning in or around July of 2017, Defendant contacted Plaintiff on  
18 Plaintiff’s cellular telephone number ending in -1014, in an attempt to solicit  
19 Plaintiff to purchase Defendant’s services.

20 9. Defendant used an “automatic telephone dialing system” as defined  
21 by 47 U.S.C. § 227(a)(1) to place its call to Plaintiff seeking to solicit its services.

22 10. Defendant contacted or attempted to contact Plaintiff from telephone  
23 numbers confirmed to belong to Defendant, including without limitation (619) 369-  
24 4109.

25 11. Defendant’s calls constituted calls that were not for emergency  
26 purposes as defined by 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1)(A).

27 12. Defendant’s calls were placed to telephone number assigned to a  
28 cellular telephone service for which Plaintiff incurs a charge for incoming calls

pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1).

13. During all relevant times, Defendant did not possess Plaintiff's "prior express consent" to receive calls using an automatic telephone dialing system or an artificial or prerecorded voice on his cellular telephone pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1)(A).

14. Such calls constitute solicitation calls pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 64.1200(c)(2) as they were attempts to promote or sell Defendant's services.

15. Plaintiff received numerous solicitation calls from Defendant within a 12-month period.

16. Upon information and belief, and based on Plaintiff's experiences of being called by Defendant despite having no prior relation to Plaintiff whatsoever, and at all relevant times, Defendant failed to establish and implement reasonable practices and procedures to effectively prevent telephone solicitations in violation of the regulations prescribed under 47 U.S.C. § 227(c)(5).

### **CLASS ALLEGATIONS**

17. Plaintiff brings this action individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated, as a member of the proposed class (hereinafter, "The Class"), defined as follows:

All persons within the United States who received any solicitation/telemarketing telephone calls from Defendant to said person's cellular telephone made through the use of any automatic telephone dialing system or an artificial or prerecorded voice and such person had not previously consented to receiving such calls within the four years prior to the filing of this Complaint

18. Plaintiff represents, and is a member of, The Class, consisting of all persons within the United States who received any solicitation/telemarketing telephone calls from Defendant to said person's cellular telephone made through the use of any automatic telephone dialing system or an artificial or prerecorded

1 voice and such person had not previously not provided their cellular telephone  
2 number to Defendant within the four years prior to the filing of this Complaint.

3 19. Defendant, its employees and agents are excluded from The Class.  
4 Plaintiff does not know the number of members in The Class, but believes the  
5 Class's members number in the thousands, if not more. Thus, this matter should  
6 be certified as a Class Action to assist in the expeditious litigation of the matter.

7 20. The Class is so numerous that the individual joinder of all of its  
8 members is impractical. While the exact number and identities of The Class  
9 members are unknown to Plaintiff at this time and can only be ascertained through  
10 appropriate discovery, Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that  
11 The Class includes thousands of members. Plaintiff alleges that The Class  
12 members may be ascertained by the records maintained by Defendant.

13 21. Plaintiff and members of The Class were harmed by the acts of  
14 Defendant in at least the following ways: Defendant illegally contacted Plaintiff  
15 and The Class members via their cellular telephones thereby causing Plaintiff and  
16 The Class members to incur certain charges or reduced telephone time for which  
17 Plaintiff and The Class members had previously paid by having to retrieve or  
18 administer messages left by Defendant during those illegal calls, and invading the  
19 privacy of said Plaintiff and The Class members.

20 22. Common questions of fact and law exist as to all members of The  
21 Class which predominate over any questions affecting only individual members of  
22 The Class. These common legal and factual questions, which do not vary between  
23 Class members, and which may be determined without reference to the individual  
24 circumstances of any Class members, include, but are not limited to, the following:

- 25 a. Whether, within the four years prior to the filing of this  
26 Complaint, Defendant made any telemarketing/solicitation call  
27 (other than a call made for emergency purposes or made with  
28 the prior express consent of the called party) to a Class member

1 using any automatic telephone dialing system or any artificial  
2 or prerecorded voice to any telephone number assigned to a  
3 cellular telephone service;

4 b. Whether Plaintiff and The Class members were damaged  
5 thereby, and the extent of damages for such violation; and

6 c. Whether Defendant should be enjoined from engaging in such  
7 conduct in the future.

8 23. As a person that received numerous telemarketing/solicitation calls  
9 from Defendant using an automatic telephone dialing system or an artificial or  
10 prerecorded voice, without Plaintiff's prior express consent, Plaintiff is asserting  
11 claims that are typical of The Class.

12 24. Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the members  
13 of The Class. Plaintiff has retained attorneys experienced in the prosecution of  
14 class actions.

15 25. A class action is superior to other available methods of fair and  
16 efficient adjudication of this controversy, since individual litigation of the claims  
17 of all Class members is impracticable. Even if every Class's member could afford  
18 individual litigation, the court system could not. It would be unduly burdensome  
19 to the courts in which individual litigation of numerous issues would proceed.  
20 Individualized litigation would also present the potential for varying, inconsistent,  
21 or contradictory judgments and would magnify the delay and expense to all parties  
22 and to the court system resulting from multiple trials of the same complex factual  
23 issues. By contrast, the conduct of this action as a class action presents fewer  
24 management difficulties, conserves the resources of the parties and of the court  
25 system, and protects the rights of each Class member.

26 26. The prosecution of separate actions by individual Class members  
27 would create a risk of adjudications with respect to them that would, as a practical  
28 matter, be dispositive of the interests of the other Class members not parties to such

1 adjudications or that would substantially impair or impede the ability of such non-  
2 party Class members to protect their interests.

3 27. Defendant has acted or refused to act in respects generally applicable  
4 to The Class, thereby making appropriate final and injunctive relief with regard to  
5 the members of the Classes as a whole.

6 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

7 **Negligent Violations of the Telephone Consumer Protection Act**

8 **47 U.S.C. §227(b).**

9 **On Behalf of The Class**

10 28. Plaintiff repeats and incorporates by reference into this cause of action  
11 the allegations set forth above at Paragraphs 1-28.

12 29. The foregoing acts and omissions of Defendant constitute numerous  
13 and multiple negligent violations of the TCPA, including but not limited to each  
14 and every one of the above cited provisions of 47 U.S.C. § 227(b), and in particular  
15 47 U.S.C. § 227 (b)(1)(A).

16 30. As a result of Defendant's negligent violations of 47 U.S.C. § 227(b),  
17 Plaintiff and the Class Members are entitled an award of \$500.00 in statutory  
18 damages, for each and every violation, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(B).

19 31. Plaintiff and The Class members are also entitled to and seek  
20 injunctive relief prohibiting such conduct in the future.

21 **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**

22 **Knowing and/or Willful Violations of the Telephone Consumer Protection**  
23 **Act**

24 **47 U.S.C. §227(b)**

25 **On Behalf of The Class**

26 32. Plaintiff repeats and incorporates by reference into this cause of action  
27 the allegations set forth above at Paragraphs 1-28.

28 33. The foregoing acts and omissions of Defendant constitute numerous



1 and multiple knowing and/or willful violations of the TCPA, including but not  
 2 limited to each and every one of the above cited provisions of *47 U.S.C. § 227(b)*,  
 3 and in particular *47 U.S.C. § 227 (b)(1)(A)*.

4 34. As a result of Defendant's knowing and/or willful violations of *47*  
 5 *U.S.C. § 227(b)*, Plaintiff and The Class members are entitled an award of  
 6 \$1,500.00 in statutory damages, for each and every violation, pursuant to *47 U.S.C.*  
 7 *§ 227(b)(3)(B)* and *47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(C)*.

8 35. Plaintiff and the Class members are also entitled to and seek injunctive  
 9 relief prohibiting such conduct in the future.

### 10 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

11 WHEREFORE, Plaintiff requests judgment against Defendant for the following:

### 12 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

#### 13 **Negligent Violations of the Telephone Consumer Protection Act**

#### 14 **47 U.S.C. §227(b)**

- 15 • As a result of Defendant's negligent violations of *47 U.S.C.*  
 16 *§227(b)(1)*, Plaintiff and The Class members are entitled to and  
 17 request \$500 in statutory damages, for each and every violation,  
 18 pursuant to *47 U.S.C. 227(b)(3)(B)*.
- 19 • Any and all other relief that the Court deems just and proper.

### 20 **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**

#### 21 **Knowing and/or Willful Violations of the Telephone Consumer Protection** 22 **Act**

#### 23 **47 U.S.C. §227(b)**

- 24 • As a result of Defendant's willful and/or knowing violations of *47*  
 25 *U.S.C. §227(b)(1)*, Plaintiff and The Class members are entitled to  
 26 and request treble damages, as provided by statute, up to \$1,500, for  
 27 each and every violation, pursuant to *47 U.S.C. §227(b)(3)(B)* and *47*  
 28



1                    *U.S.C. §227(b)(3)(C).*

- 2                    • Any and all other relief that the Court deems just and proper.

3                    **JURY DEMAND**

4                    36. Pursuant to the Seventh Amendment to the Constitution of the United  
5 States of America, Plaintiff is entitled to, and demands, a trial by jury.

6  
7                    Respectfully Submitted this 23rd Day of May, 2018.

8                    LAW OFFICES OF TODD M. FRIEDMAN, P.C.

9  
10                    By: /s/ Todd M. Friedman

11                    Todd M. Friedman

12                    Law Offices of Todd M. Friedman

13                    Attorney for Plaintiff  
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